A

RELATION

Of the Late

Wicked Contrivance

Of *STEPHEN BLACKHEAD* and *ROBERT YOUNG*, againſt the Lives of ſeveral Perſons, by Forging an *Aſſociation* under their Hands.

Written by the Biſhop of *Rocheſter*.

In Two Parts:

The Firſt Part being a Relation of what paſſed at the Three Examinations of the ſaid Biſhop by a Committee of Lords of the *Privy-Council*.

The Second being an ACCOUNT of the Two above-mentioned Authors of the Forgery.

Thomas Sprat

In the SAVOY:

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A

RELATION

Of the Late

Cruel Encounter

between

the Fifth Part being a Squadron of Men of War

at the Three Examinations of the Fifth Part

by a Committee of Lords of the Privy Council

The several Informations

above-mentioned Authors of the Report

A RELATION of the late Wicked Contrivance of *Stephen Blackhead* and *Robert Young* against the Lives of several Persons, by Forging an Association under their Hands, &c.

I Think it becomes me, as a Duty which I owe to my Country, and to the Character I have the undeserved Honor to bear in the Church, to give the World some Account, how my Innocency was clear'd from the late Wicked Contrivance against me: In hopes that this Example of a false Plot so manifestly detected, may be, in some sort, beneficial to the whole

Nation on the like Occaſions for the future: However, that the Enemies of the Church may have no Reaſon to caſt any Blemiſh upon it, from the leaſt Suſpicion of my Guilt: And that this faithful Memorial may remain as a poor Monument of my own Gratitude to Almighty GOD, to whoſe immediate Protection I cannot but attribute this extraordinary Preſervation.

Perhaps my Reader, at firſt view, will look on this Relation, as too much loaded with ſmall Particularities; ſuch as he may judge ſcarce worth my remembring, or his knowing: But he will pardon me, if I preſume that nothing in this whole Affair ought to appear little, or inconſiderable, to me at leaſt, who was ſo nearly concern'd in the event of it.

I have therefore made no ſcruple to diſcharge my weak Memory of all it could retain of this Matter; Nor have I willingly omitted any Thing, though never ſo minute, which, I thought, might ſerve to fix this wonderful Mercy of GOD the more on my own Mind; or did any way conduce to the ſaving of divers other innocent Perſons Lives, as well as mine.

I cannot indeed Promiſe, that I ſhall accurately repeat every Word or Expreſſion, that fell from

from all the Parties here mentioned: Or that I shall put all down in the very same Order, as it was spoken, having not had the Opportunity to take Notes of every thing as it pass'd. But this I will say; if I shall not be able to relate all the Truth, yet I will omit nothing that is Material: I will as carefully as if I were upon my Oath, give in all the Truth I can remember, and nothing but the Truth.

What I Write I intend shall consist of Two Parts: The First, To be a Narrative of the plain Matter of Fact from my first being taken into Custody, *May* the 7th, to the time of my last Dismission *June* the 13th. The Second, To contain some Account of the Two Perjur'd Wretches that were pleas'd, for what Reasons they know best, to bring me into this Danger.

For the Truth of the Substance of what I shall recollect on the first Head, I am bold to appeal to the Memories of those Honourable *LORDS* of the *Council*, by whom I was thrice Examin'd. And touching the second, I have by me so many Original Papers, or Copies of unquestionable Authority, (which I am ready to shew any VVorthy Persons, who shall desire the Satisfaction) as are abundantly sufficient to justifie all

that

that I ſhall think fit for me to ſay againſt *Blackhead*, and *Young*; eſpecially againſt *Young*.

It was on *Saturday* the ſeventh of *May* of this preſent Year 1692, in the Evening, as I was walking in the Orchard at *Bromeley*, Meditating on ſomething I deſign'd to Preach the next Day; that I ſaw a Coach and four Horſes ſtop at the outer Gate, out of which two Perſons alighted. Immediately I went towards them, believing they were ſome of my Friends, coming to give me a Viſit. By that time I was got to the Gate, they were enter'd into the Hall: But ſeeing me haſtning to them, they turn'd, and met me about the middle of the Court. The Chief of them perceiving me to look wiſtly on them, as being altogether Strangers to me, ſaid, *My Lord, Perhaps you do not know me. My Name is* Dyve, *I am Clerk of the Council, and here is one of the King's Meſſengers. I am ſorry I am ſent on this Errand. But I am come to Arreſt you upon ſuſpition of High Treaſon.*

Sir, ſaid I, I ſuppoſe you have a Warrant for ſo doing; I pray let me ſee it. He ſhew'd it me. I read it; and the firſt Name I lighted on being

being the Earl of *Nottingham*'s; I ſaid, Sir, I believe this is my Lord *Nottingham*'s own Hand, and I ſubmit. What are your Orders how to diſpoſe of me? *My Lord*, ſaid he, *I muſt firſt ſearch your Perſon, and demand the Keys you have about you.* My Keys I preſently gave him. He ſearch'd my Pockets; and found no Papers, but ſome poor Notes of a Sermon, and a Letter from Mr. *B. Fairfax* about ordinary Buſineſs.

Now, ſays he, *My Lord, I muſt require to ſee the Rooms to which theſe Keys belong, and all the Places in the Houſe, where you have any Papers or Books.* I ſtraight conducted him up Stairs into my Study. This, Sir, ſaid I, is the only Chamber where I keep all the Books and Papers I have in the Houſe. They began to Search, and with great readineſs turn'd over every thing in the Room, and Cloſets, and Preſſes, ſhaking every Book by the Cover, opening every part of a Cheſt of Drawers, where were many Papers, particularly ſome Bundles of Sermons; which, I told them were my proper Tools; And that all that knew me, could Vouch for me, it was not my Cuſtom to have any Treaſon in

them. They read ſeveral of the Texts, and left them where they found them. But in one corner of a Preſs, which was half open, they met with a great number of Letters fil'd up. I aſſur'd them they were only Matters of uſual Friendly Correſpondence, and moſt of them were of laſt Years date. Mr. *Dyve* looking on ſome of them, found them to be ſo; and ſaid, *If he had time to view them all, he might, perhaps, ſee reaſon to leave them behind; But being expreſly Commanded to bring all Letters, he muſt carry them with him.* I left him to do as he pleaſed; ſo they ſeal'd them up.

Then they went into my Bedchamber, and the Cloſets adjoining, doing as they had done in my Study, feeling about the Bed and Hangings, and knocking the Wainſcot in ſeveral places, to ſee if there were any private Hole, or Secret Conveyance.

After that they came down Stairs, and ſearch'd the Parlour and Drawing-Room on that ſide of the Houſe with the like exactneſs. In all theſe Rooms I obſerved they very carefully pryed into every part of the Chimneys; the Meſſenger putting his Hand into

into every Flower-Pot: Which I then ſomewhat ſmiled at: But ſince I found he had but too much Reaſon ſo to do.

When they had done ſearching in all thoſe Rooms, and in the Hall as they were going out, and had taken with them what Papers they thought fit; they carryed Me away in the Coach that brought them. By the Way we met my Servant Mr. *Moor* coming from *London*. I call'd out to him, Have you any Letters for Me? He gave me three or four, which I deliver'd to Mr. *Dyve* to open: Who found nothing in them, but Matters of private Concernment, or ordinary News. And ſo, between Ten and Eleven at Night, we arrived at *Whitehal*, and I was brought to my Lord-*Nottingham*, whom I found alone in his Office.

My Lord, ſaid I, I am come upon your Warrant; but certainly there muſt be ſome great Miſtake, or black Villany in this Buſineſs. For I declare, as in the Preſence of God, I am abſolutely free from any juſt Accuſation relating to the Government. His Lordſhip told me, *He himſelf was much ſurprized when he heard my Name mentioned.*

I intreated him I might be Examined that Night, if any Witneſſes could be produced againſt me. He ſaid, *That could not poſſibly be, becauſe the Lords, who had the Management of ſuch Affairs, were ſeparated, and gone Home: But that I was to appear before them the next Day; and in the mean time, all the Civility ſhould be ſhewn me, that could be expected by a Man in my Condition.*

My Lord, ſaid I, I hope, it being ſo very late, you will ſuffer me to lie at my own Houſe at *Weſtminſter*. He reply'd, *You ſhall do ſo; But you muſt have a Guard of Soldiers and a Meſſenger with you.* A Guard of Soldiers ſaid I, My Lord, methinks is not ſo neceſſary to ſecure one of my Profeſſion; I ſhould rather offer, that I may have two or more Meſſengers to keep me, tho' that may put me to greater Charges. *My Lord*, ſaid he, *I, for my own part, would be glad, if I might take your Parole; Bnt I muſt do what I may anſwer to others; and therefore I pray be Content.*

At this I acquieſced; only adding, My Lord, here are divers Papers brought up with

with me, which, upon my Credit, are but of common Importance; yet, becauſe they are moſt of them private Talk among Friends; there may be ſome Expreſſions, which no Man, if it were his own Caſe, would be willing to have divulg'd; and therefore I deſire your Lordſhip will take Care they may not be ſhewn to the Prejudice of any. He anſwer'd, *You have to do with Men of Honour: And you ſhall have no Occaſion to complain upon that Account.*

And ſo I was convey'd Home to *Weſtminſter* by Mr. *Dyve*, and Mr. *Knight* the Meſſenger, in the Coach with Me, and a Guard attending on each ſide. After we came to the Deanery, Mr. *Dyve* having diligently ſurveyed my Lodgings, and the Avenues to them, left Me about Midnight, with a ſtrict Charge to the Meſſenger and Soldiers, not to give me any unneceſſary Diſturbance; but to watch carefully at my Bed-Chamber-Door till further Orders, which they did.

The next Day, being *Sunday*, *May* the 8th, Mr. *Dyve* came again to me about Noon, to acquaint me, That I was to attend the Committee of the Council that Evening by

Six

Six o'the Clock. *And*, says he, *My Lord, I suppose you have here also at* Westminster *a Room where you keep the rest of your Books and Papers.* I told him, I had. *Then*, said he, *I have Commission to search there likewise; particularly in your Cabinet.* I shewed him my Library, and gave him the Keys. He opened all the Presses of Books, and viewed particularly every Shelf, and examined every Drawer in the Cabinet: But finding nothing there of a late date, or that might afford any the least shadow of a Trayterous Correspondence, he went away without removing any one Paper thence.

At the time appointed I was brought by the Messenger and Guard to *Whitehal*, where a select Number of the Lords of the Council were assembled at my Lord *Nottingham*'s Lodgings. There were present, as I remember, the Earl of *Devonshire* Lord Steward, the Earl of *Dorset* Lord Chamberlain, the Earl of *Nottingham* Secretary of State, the Earl of *Rochester*, the Earl of *Portland*, the Lord *Sydney* Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*, and Sir *Edward Seymour*.

When

When I was enter'd the Room, and come to the end of the Table, my Lord *Nottingham* began. But now, for the greater perſpicuity of the whole Proceedings, and to avoid the too frequent repetition of, *ſaid I*, or *ſaid ſuch an one*, or *ſaid they*, I will henceforth give all the Queſtions and Anſwers, and the reſt of the Diſcourſes, in the Name of every Perſon, as they ſpoke, and by way of Dialogue.

Earl of *Nottingham*. *My Lord, You cannot but think it muſt be ſome extraordinary Occaſion, which has forc'd us to ſend for you hither in this manner.*

Biſhop of Rocheſter. My Lord, I ſubmit to the Neceſſities of State, in ſuch a Time of Jealouſie, and Danger, as this is.

Earl of *N.* *My Lord, I am to ask you ſome Queſtions, to which we deſire your plain and true Anſwers.*

Biſhop of R. My Lords, I aſſure you mine ſhall be ſuch; as, I hope, I have been always taken for a Man of Simplicity and Sincerity.

Earl

Earl of *N.* *Have you Compoſed a Declaration for the preſent intended Deſcent of the late King* James *into* England?

Biſhop of R. I call GOD to Witneſs, I have not.

Earl of *N.* *Did you ever draw up any Heads, or Materials for ſuch a Declaration?*

Biſhop of R. Upon the ſame Solemn Aſſeveration, I never did.

Earl of *N.* *Were you ever ſolicited, or apply'd to by any Perſon, for the Undertaking ſuch a Work?*

Biſhop of R. I never was.

Earl of *N.* *Do you hold any Correſpondencies abroad in* France?

Biſhop of R. I do not hold any.

Earl of *N.* *Have you ever ſign'd any Aſſociation for Reſtoring the late King* James.?

Biſhop of R. I never ſign'd any.

Earl of *N.* *Do you know of any ſuch Aſſociation? Or any Perſons that have ſubſcribed one?*

Biſhop of R. Upon the Word of a Chriſtian, and a Biſhop, I know of no ſuch thing; nor of any Perſon, who has ſubſcribed any Paper of that Nature.

Sir

Sir Edward Seymour. *My Lord Bishop of* Rochester, *We have examined the Papers that were seized in your Closet at* Bromley. *We find nothing in them, but Matters of ordinary and innocent Conversation among Friends; only we have one Scruple, That there are few or no Letters among them written since* Lady-day *last.*

Bishop of R. Sir, I suppose there may be some of a Date since that Time in the Bundles. If I had preserv'd more, they would have been of the same Nature with the rest that you have, that is, concerning common Intelligence, and the Talk of the Town; not any Secrets of State, or against the Government. My Lords, I hold no Correspondencies of that kind. When I am in the Country, I desire some Friend or other here to let me know how the World goes, that I may inform my self, and the Neighbouring Gentlemen, of the Truth of Things, and prevent the spreading of false News: And afterwards I file up such Letters according to their Dates, (as you may perceive I did these,) that at any time I may have a present Recourse to them to refresh my Memory in any past Transaction.

My Lords, Thoſe are all I thought worth keeping of this kind theſe two laſt Years. And I hope the Clerk of the Council has done me the Juſtice to acquaint your Lordſhips, how I was apprehended, out of my Houſe; and how narrowly I my ſelf, and my Study, and Lodging-Chamber, and other Rooms, were ſearch'd: So that it was impoſſible for me to have ſuppreſs'd or ſmother'd any one Writing from you. And really I believe there was not a Note, or leaſt Scrip of Paper of any Conſequence in my Poſſeſſion, but they had a view of it.

Earl of *Devonſhire*. *But, my Lord, it is probable a Man of your Intereſt, and Acquaintance, muſt have received more Letters ſince, than are here to be found. We ſee here are many concerning Affairs that paſs'd juſt before that time.*

Biſhop of R. My Lords, A little before the Concluſion of the laſt Seſſion of Parliament, I obtain'd Leave of the Houſe of Lords to retire into the Country, for the Recovery of my Health. During my abode there, as long as the Parliament continued, I was ſomewhat curious to learn what paſs'd in both

both Houſes, and therefore, as your Lordſhip has obſerv'd, Letters came thicker to me about that time. But when the Parliament was up, very little happning that was remarkable in that interval, I was not ſo mindful to preſerve the Letters that came to me, whilſt all Things, both abroad and at home, were rather in Preparation than Action.

Beſides that, ſince the Time your Lordſhips ſpeak of, I was twice or thrice in Town for ſeveral days together; once eſpecially, upon a publick Occaſion, the Annual Election of *Weſtminſter* School; which detain'd me here about a Week. And theſe are the True Reaſons why you find ſo few Letters to me ſince the Date of Time your Lordſhips have mentioned.

Earl of *N. Will it pleaſe your Lordſhips to aſk the Biſhop of* Rocheſter *any more Queſtions?*

They being all ſilent, I ſaid, My Lords, I cannot imagine how it comes to paſs that I ſhould be thus ſuſpected to be guilty of any Contrivance againſt the Government; I think I may appeal to all that know me, I am ſure I may to all my Neighbours in

the Country where I live, that there has no Man ſubmitted to it more peaceably and quietly than I have done ever ſince the Revolution; and I muſt own, I did it both upon a a Principle of Conſcience and Gratitude. Of Conſcience, Becauſe I cannot ſee how the *Church of England* and the *whole Proteſtant Religion* can be preſerv'd but upon this Conſtitution; ſince an Invaſion from *France* cannot but be deſtructive to Both. And of Gratitude, Becauſe, as you all know, I happen'd to be, in the late Reign, engag'd in an Affair, which ſince I have been taught was Illegal. And though, I may ſay, I ſtopp'd betimes, and did no great hurt, but hindred, as much as I could, whil'ſt I Acted; yet I Acted ſo long, that I might have expected to be ſeverely puniſh'd for what I did. But the King's and Queen's Part, in the General Pardon, was ſo Gracious and Benign, in making it their own Act, and not excluding me out of it, that Their Majeſties have thereby laid upon me an Obligation never to be forgotten.

Upon this I was bid to withdraw; and about an Hour after, the ſame Clerk of the

Council

Council was sent out to tell me, *The Lords had Order'd I should return to my own House, and be under the same Confinement as before, of a Messenger, and a Guard of Soldiers: And there I should shortly hear what their Lordships would determine concerning me.* He likewise told the Messenger, and the Guards, *That he had a strict Command to them to use me, with all Respect; only to take Care, that I should be safely kept, and forth-coming.* Nor indeed had I any thing to object against their Behaviour: For, as Mr. *Dyve* demean'd himself always to me like a Gentleman, and the Messenger was very Civil, so the Soldiers themselves were as easie and quiet to the rest of my Family, as if they had been a part of it.

The same Evening Mr. *Dyve* came home to me, and brought me all my Papers, telling me, *That the Lords had heard him read them over; and, having no Exception against them, had sent him to return them all safe to me again.*

Thus guarded, I continued from that Day, till the 18th of *May*, under the Custody of a Messenger and of four Centinels, who,

who watched Day and Night, and were relieved every Eight and forty Hours.

But then, having heard nothing in the mean time from the Lords, I wrote this Letter to the Earl of *Nottingham*.

My Lord,

AS I have all this while, according to my Duty to their Majesties Government, with Patience and Humility, submitted to my Confinement under a Guard of Soldiers, and a Messenger; so now, fearing that my longer Silence may be interpreted as a Mistrust of my Innocency, I think it becomes me to make this Application to your Lordship, earnestly intreating you to represent my Condition and Request to the most Honourable Board, where I was examined. I entirely rely on their Justice and Honor, that, if they find nothing real against me (as God knows, I am conscious to my self they cannot) they would be pleased to order my Enlargement. I am forced to be the more importunate with your Lordship in this Business, because it is very well known, in what a dan-

a dangerous Condition of Health I went out of Town towards the latter end of the Session of Parliament: And I find my Distemper very much increased by this close Restraint, in a time when I was just entring upon a Course of Physick in the Country.

My Lord;

I am Your Lordship's most Humble, and most Obedient Servant,

May 18. *Westm.* Tho. Rotheram.

To the Right Honorable, the Earl of *Nottingham*, Principal Secretary of State.

This Letter was read in the Cabinet Council that Day, and it had the Desired Effect; for thereupon I was ordered to be discharged that Evening; which accordingly was done

done about ten at Night, by Mr. *Shorter*, a Meſſenger of the Chamber, coming to my Houſe, and diſmiſſing the Meſſenger, and taking off the Guard.

The next Morning, being *May* 19th, to prevent any Concourſe or Congratulations, uſual upon ſuch Occaſions, I retired early to *Bromley*, where I remained quiet till *June* the 9th, little dreaming of a worſe Miſchief ſtill hanging over my Head.

But that Day, being *Thurſday*, as I was upon the Road, coming to *Weſtminſter*, to the Meeting of Dr. *Busby*'s Preachers, who aſſemble once a Term at my Houſe there, I was ſtopt by a Gentleman that brought me this Letter from my Lord *Nottingham*.

White-

White-Hall, June 8. 92.

My Lord,

I *Muſt deſire your Lordſhip to be at my Office on* Friday *Morning by Ten of the Clock.*

I am Your Lordſhips

Moſt Humble Servant,

Nottingham.

For the Right Reverend, the Lord Biſhip of Rocheſter, *at* Bromley.

I asked the Bearer, whether he had any farther Orders concerning me. He anſwered, *No: But was forthwith to return.* I deſired him to acquaint his Lord, that I was now going to Town upon other Buſineſs, but that I would preſently wait on him at *White-Hall.* Accordingly from *Lambeth* I went to his Office. When my Lord came to me, I told him, that having met with his Lord-

ſhip's Letter accidentally in my Way to *Weſtminſter*, I thought it beſt to come preſently to know his Pleaſure.

Earl of *N.* *My Lord, There is a Miſtake, I gave you Notice to be here to morrow Morning: And that is the Time you are appointed to appear before the Committee of the Council.*

Biſhop of R. However, My Lord, being in Town occaſionally, I thought it became me to preſent my ſelf to you as ſoon as I could. And I now make it my Requeſt, If your Lordſhips have any thing farther to ſay to me, I may be convened before you this Day.

Earl of *N.* *I fear you cannot be ſo, for there is much Buſineſs to be this Afternoon, both at the great Council, and the Committee: But I will ſend you Word to the Deanery, if you can be called this Evening. In the mean time you have your full Liberty to go where you pleaſe.*

Thus I went home; but having no Notice from my Lord that Night, the next Day, being *June* the 10th, about Ten of the Clock, I came to his Lordſhip's Office; where were met

met the ſame Lords as before; only, I think, the Earl of *Portland* was not there, and the Earl of *Pembroke*, Lord Privy Seal, was.

When I was call'd in, beſides the Privy Councillors that ſat about the Table, there was ſtanding againſt the Wall a very ill-favour'd Man, who afterwards prov'd to be *Blackhead*; with whom I ſtrait perceiv'd I was ſent for to be confronted.

For, as ſoon as I was in the Room, my Lord *Nottingham* ſaid, *My Lord, Do you know that Perſon?*

Biſhop of R. My Lord, I have ſeen this Man's Face, but I cannot immediately recollect where.

Earl of *N.* *I pray view him well. Has he never brought you any Letters from one Mr.* Young?

Biſhop of R. I do call to mind, he has brought me a Letter. I cannot in a moment remember from whom it was.

Earl of *N.* *He ſays it was from one* Young.

Biſhop of R. I think it was at my Houſe at *Bromley*, that he delivered it me; but I ve-

rily believe, it was not from any of the Name of *Young*.

Blackhead. I was with the Biſhop of Rocheſter *at* Bromley : *I brought him a Letter from Mr.* Young, *and I received an Anſwer to Mr.* Young *back again from the Biſhop.*

Thus far, during the beginning of this Examination, I ſtood with my Face againſt the Window, and my Eyes being ſo very tender and feeble as they are, I had not a perfect View of *Blackhead*; but he ſo confidently affirming, That he had of late carried Letters between me and one *Young*, I changed my Station, and got the Light on my Back; and then immediately, having a true Sight of his very remarkable Countenance and Habit, and whole Perſon, and being alſo much aſſiſted by his Voice, which is very loud and rude; I did (by Gods Bleſſing) perfectly call him to mind; and ſaid, Now, my Lords, by the Advantage of this Light, I do exactly remember this Fellow, and part of his Buſineſs with me at *Bromley*. What he ſays of *Young* cannot be true. I know not for what purpoſe he affirms this; but upon my Reputa-

putation, it is utterly falſe, that he ever brought me a Letter from one *Young*.

Earl of *N.* *My Lord, He ſays particularly, it was upon a Faſt-day.*

Biſhop of R. My Lords, I do remember this Fellow was with me at *Bromley* on a Faſt-Day: By the ſame Token, I told him, he ſhould ſtay till after Evening-Prayers, and muſt expect only a faſting kind of Meal. But then I would return an Anſwer to his Buſineſs.

Blackhead. *It was upon a Faſt-day. I did eat with the Biſhop's Servants; and I received an Anſwer from his own Hand, to the Letter I brought him from Mr.* Young.

Biſhop of R. My Lords, This that he ſays of *Young*, is a wicked Lye: All my Correſpondencies are ſo innocent (as I hope your Lordſhips can teſtifie) that, if I had received a Letter from any Mr. *Young*, I ſhould have no reaſon ſo poſitively to deny it. I beſeech you, examine this Fellow throughly, and I doubt not but you will diſcover ſome impudent Knavery. I ſtand to it; I am ſure there is no Perſon whoſe Name is *Young*, with whom I have of late years maintained any Intercourſe by Letters.

Earl

Earl of *Devonſhire*. *My Lord, Is there no Perſon of the Name of* Young, *a Clergy-man, with whom you are acquainted?*

Biſhop of R. Oh! My Lord, There are two excellent Perſons of the Name of *Young*, both Clergy-men, to whom I have the good Fortune to be very well known: The one was your Brother *Offery*'s Chaplain, and is now Prebendary of *Wincheſter*; the other was Canon of *Windſor*, when I was a Member of that Church, and is there ſtill. But I ſuppoſe, neither of theſe are the *Youngs*, whoſe Correſpondence this Man objects to me. I ſhould take it for an Honor to Correſpond with them. But in Truth it has ſo happen'd, that I have neither written too, nor receiv'd one Letter from either of them theſe many Years, to the beſt of my Knowledge.

Blackhead. *The Biſhop, if he pleaſe, may remember it was* Robert Young, *from whom I brought him a Letter.*

Earl of *N. How long ago ſay you, it was?*

Blackhead. *It was about two Months ago?*

Biſhop of R. I have indeed, my Lords, ſome obſcure Remembrance, that ſome Years ago, there was one writ to me out of *Newgate*,

Newgate, under the Name of *Robert Young*, pretending to be a Clergy-Man; and I recal ſomething of the Contents of his Letter. It was to tell me, That *He and his Wife lay in Priſon there upon a Falſe Accuſation, of which he hoped they ſhould be ſpeedily clear'd. In the mean time, he deſired me to recollect, that he had Officiated ſome Weeks for the Chaplain at* Bromley-College, *and had Preach'd once or twice in the Pariſh-Church there. He intreated me to give him a Certificate of this, becauſe it would ſtand him in much ſtead in order to his Juſtification: And withal, that I would ſend him ſomething out of my Charity, for his and his Wifes Relief in their great Diſtreſs.*

This, my Lords, I dare ſay, was the whole Subſtance of that Letter, and this was two or three Years ago at leaſt.

To that Letter I am ſure I made no Reply in Writing. Only, having not the leaſt Remembrance of him my ſelf, I inquir'd in the Neighborhood, and among the Widows in the College; intending to have ſent him ſome Alms ſuitable to his Condition and mine, had I found him worthy.

But

But upon inquiry, I received from all Hands, ſo very ill a Character both of this *Young*, and his Wife, that I reſolv'd to give him no Anſwer at all; and I have never heard any thing more of him to this Day.

But now, I beſeech your Lordſhips, to give me leave to ſpeak to this Perſon my ſelf: And they intimating I ſhould do as I thought beſt, I ſaid to him;

I Conjure you, in the Preſence of theſe Noble Lords, and eſpecially of the Great LORD of Heaven and Earth, that you will declare the Truth of what I am going to ask you.

When you came to my Houſe at *Bromley*, upon a Faſt-Day it was, I think the firſt Faſt of this Year; Did not you deſire to ſpeak with me, as having a Letter for me? When I came to you into my Hall, Did not you firſt kneel down, and ask me Bleſſing? Did you not then deliver me a Letter, affirming it was from a Country-Miniſter, a Doctor of Divinity? Did not you tell me, You were his Servant, or Bayliff? And that your Maſter had ſent you on purpoſe, many Miles,

to

to receive an Answer your self to that Letter from my own Hand?

Blackhead. *I never brought a Letter to the Bishop of* Rochester *from a Country Minister; I know no such Doctor of Divinity: Nor ever was Servant to any. I only brought a Letter to the Bishop from Mr.* Young.

Bishop of R. My Lords, What I say is most certainly true. This Man had never any other Business with me, but in relation to that Letter, pretended by him, (for now I find it was but a pretence) to be written to me by an Eminent Country Divine in *Buckinghamshire*, a Person of a Considerable Estate, as he told me. My Lords, I cannot yet call to Mind the Doctor's Name; But the Business of the Letter I am in great part Master of, and it was to this purpose.

That there was a Person, (naming him,) who had apply'd to him to be his Curate; but that he had Reason to suspect he had Counterfeited my Hand and Seal for Holy Orders. Therefore he desired me to send him Word under my own Hand by the Bearer his Man, Whether I had Ordain'd such a One, in such, or such Years: That if I had,

he would Encourage, and Entertain him; if not, he would take care he ſhould be puniſh'd for his Forgery.

Now, My Lords, upon the receipt of ſo Friendly a Letter, by this very Meſſenger, I bid him ſtay a little, and I would give his Maſter Satisfaction out of my Books, Whether I had Ordain'd any Man of that Name; which I thought I had not. Accordingly my Secretary, and I, did ſeverally turn over all my Papers relating to ſuch Affairs, as carefully as we could; and finding no ſuch Mans Name in them; in which we could not be eaſily deceiv'd, becauſe I keep Methodically (as no doubt every Biſhop does) all Recommendations, Subſcriptions, Teſtimonials, and Titles of thoſe I admit into Orders; I wrote the ſuppoſed Author of the Letter, as civil an Anſwer as his ſeemed to deſerve.

That I was extreamly pleaſed, and thankful, that a meer Stranger to me ſhould be ſo careful of my Reputation; That my Secretary, and I, had diligently examin'd all the Books, where ſuch Things are Recorded: And I could aſſure him, I never had Or-

dain'd any such Person either Priest or Deacon, within the space limited in his Letter, or at any other time: That I should look upon it as a signal Service done to the Church in general, and a special Favour to me in particular, if he would, as he promised, cause the Counterfeit to be apprehended, so that the Course of Law might pass upon him.

This Letter, my Lords, all Written with my own Hand, I delivered to the Person here present: And he went away with it, asking me Blessing again upon his Knees, and promising I should speedily be made acquainted with the Success.

Earl of *Devonshire*. *I pray, My Lord, how was the Letter Superscrib'd you sent back by this Man?*

Bishop of R. My Lord, It was to the same Person, with the same Superscription as he Subscrib'd himself, and directed to the same Place, where he said he was Minister; tho' the Name of Place or Minister I cannot yet recover. But let that Letter of mine be produced, and it will put an end to this whole Controversie.

Blackhead. *The Letter I receiv'd from the Bishop, was Superscrib'd to Mr.* Young, *and to no other.*

Bishop of R. My Lords, This is a Horrid Fallhood. I well remember now, this Fellow was at my House a second time, some Weeks after the first. When he came, I was in the Garden with some Gentlemen my Neighbours; where, first asking me Blessing, he told me, *His Master the Doctor had taken up the Person who had Forg'd my Orders: That the Man stood upon his Vindication; but that his Master was bringing him up to* London, *and then I should hear farther from him.* Adding, *That his Master was a Man of such a Spirit, and such a plentiful Estate, that whenever he suspected a Man to be a* Rogue, *or a* Cheat, *he would spare no Pains to discover him, nor think any Cost too much to get him punish'd.* These, my Lords, I well remember were the Knaves very Words. And I hope your Lordships will likewise deal with him in the same manner. I took this second Message still more kindly, and order'd my Servants to entertain the Messenger very civilly.

Black-

Blackhead. *I brought no such Message. All my Business with the Bishop was from Mr.* Young, *which I suppose was of another Nature.*

Bishop of R. What I say is so true, that I am confident several of my Servants do remember the Particulars. For this Man stuck not to Declare his Business before them all; very much Magnifying his Master, and his House-keeping, and Vapouring what an Example he would make of the Counterfeit Priest, without putting me to any Trouble, or Expence.

Earl of *Devonshire*. *Has your Lordship none of those Servants near at hand?*

Bishop of R. My Lord, some of them are in Town; and one, my Secretary, Mr. *Moore*, by an accidental good Fortune, came hither with me: He was without, when I was called in. I doubt not but he will satisfie your Lordships what was this Man's Errand to me: He is a young Man, of Great Honesty, and, I believe, would not tell a Lye to save my Life: I am sure I would not have him.

Whilst

Whilſt they were calling in Mr. *Moore*, I added, My Lords, I appeal to the Great God of Heaven to judge between me and this Wretch, touching the Truth or Falſhood of what we ſay, and to deal with us both accordingly at the laſt Day of Judgment: And I dare alſo appeal to your Lordſhips to judge between us by what appears to you; For did you ever ſee greater Villany, and Conſciouſneſs of Guilt in any Man's Countenance than in his?

By this time Mr. *Moore* being come in, I ſaid, *Moore*, Apply your ſelf to My Lord *Nottingham*. I charge you, Do not, for any Conſideration of me, ſpeak any Thing which you cannot juſtifie for Truth.

Earl of *N.* Mr. Moore, *Do you know that Perſon there?* Pointing to *Blackhead*.

Mr. Moore. *My Lord, I do know him ſo far, that I have ſeen him once or twice at my Lord's Houſe at* Bromley.

Earl of *N. What Buſineſs had he at* Bromley?

Mr. M. The firſt Time he brought a Letter to my Lord.

Earl

Earl of *N.* *From whom?*

Mr. M. *My Lord, It was from a Country Miniſter in* Buckinghamſhire, *a Doctor of Divinity, as he wrote himſelf, his Name was* Hooke.

Biſhop of R. My Lords, I now very well remember that was the Name, *Hooke*, or ſomething very near it. There may be the Difference of a Letter: I will not ſtand upon that, or can it be expected I, or my Servant, ſhould be poſitive as to every Letter of a Name, in ſo ſudden a Queſtion.

Earl of *N.* *Mr.* Moore, *What was the Buſineſs of that Letter?*

Mr. M. *My Lord, it was concerning one that offered himſelf to be the Doctor's Curate, whom he ſuſpected to have Counterfeited my Lord's Letters of Orders. The Doctor deſired my Lord to look into his Books, whether he had Ordain'd any ſuch Perſon. My Lord and I did thereupon ſearch all the Places where the Memorials of ſuch Affairs are kept, and we found no ſuch Name; and ſo my Lord himſelf wrote back to the Doctor, by this very Man that ſtands here.*

Earl

Earl of *N.* Mr. Moore, *Will you take your Oath of all this?*

Mr. M. I am ready to take my Oath of it, if you please to give it me.

Earl of *N. What say you* Blackhead? *You see here is a young Man, the Bishop's Secretary, comes in by chance, and confirms punctually what the Bishop had said before, concerning your Message to his Lord: And he offers to take his Oath of it. If you did bring a Letter from one Doctor* Hooke, *Why do you not confess it? It can do you no hurt.*

Blackhead. *I know of no such Divine as Doctor* Hooke; *nor any Thing concerning one that Counterfeited the Bishops Orders. The Letter I brought was from Mr.* Young.

Mr. M. My Lord, This Fellow cannot but know, that what he says is shamefully false; I assure you, I have the Original Letter at home to produce: And doubt not but divers of my Lords Servants remember him and his Business as well as I do: For he was a second Time at Bromley *some Weeks after.*

Earl of *N. What was his Business then?*

Mr.

Mr. M. He ſaid, He came to acquaint my Lord, That his Maſter, Doctor Hooke, *had ſeized on the Perſon who had forg'd his Orders. My Lord ask'd him, Whether he had alſo ſeiz'd the Falſe Inſtrument? And if he had, deſired it might be tranſmitted to him. This Man anſwered, He believed his Maſter had got it: That he was coming up to* London, *and bringing the Cheat with him; and had been there ſooner, had he not ſprain'd or hurt his Leg: But when he was come, the Doctor would give my Lord Notice, or himſelf wait upon him. My Lord was much pleaſed with this ſecond Meſſage; and gave Orders to have the Bringer of it well uſed. He was ſo; and freely diſcourſed with the Butler, and the other Servants, touching his Buſineſs there. So that I am verily perſwaded ſeveral of them remember all theſe Circumſtances of it, and perhaps more than I do.*

Upon this, *Blackhead*, being again urg'd by the Lords with ſo plain a Teſtimony, perfectly agreeing with what I had ſaid; and he ſtill perſevering obſtinately to deny every part of it; I and Mr. *Moore* were ordered to withdraw, *Blackhead* ſtaying behind.

As I was going out, I said, My Lords, I cannot comprehend to what purpose this Fellow persists in this Lye; I am sure he can never prove that I have injured the Government, in Word, or Deed, or Writing. Then I could not but again observe to the Lords, what visible Marks of Falshood and Treachery there were in *Blackhead*'s Face. For, indeed all the while he look'd as if he would have sunk into the Ground. Tho', as I was told afterwards, before I came into the Room he had appear'd very brisk, and bold, and full of Talk. But, upon my first coming in, his Complexion, which was naturally very fallow, turn'd much paler and darker; and he was almost Speechless, saying nothing to any purpose, more than what he thought was necessary to keep him firm to the main Lye, That he had brought me a Letter from one *Young*, and no other.

But after my being withdrawn, about half an Hour, I was called in again, and *Blackhead* sent forth.

Earl of *N. Now, my Lord, the Business is out, the Fellow has confess'd he brought the Letter*

ter to you, Written not in the Name of Young, *but as from one Doctor* Hookes, Hookes *was the Name, not* Hooke, *your Lordſhip was in the right, in ſaying, you would not ſtand upon a Letter.*

Biſhop of R. My Lords, I could not truſt my Memory ſo far as to a Letter. But one Thing I was ſure of, That was the only Letter this Raſcal ever brought me; and it was not from any whoſe Name was *Young.*

Earl of *N. Well, that Buſineſs is over, he has confeſs'd it; and now, my Lord, Pray take a Chair and ſit down.*

Earl of *Devonſhire. Pray, my Lord, ſit down.*

Biſhop of R. No, my Lords, I deſire you to excuſe me.

Earl of *N. My Lord, we have ſome few Queſtions to ask you, and therefore pray repoſe your ſelf.*

Biſhop of R. If you pleaſe to permit me, I had rather anſwer what your Lordſhips have farther to ſay, ſtanding thus as I am at the Table.

Earl of *N.* *Then, my Lord, we ſhall ask you. Have you ever written to the Earl of* Marleborough *within theſe Three Months?*

Biſhop of R. I think I may ſafely affirm, I never writ to my Lord *Marleborough* in my Life: But I am certain, and upon the Faith of a Biſhop, I declare, I have not written one Word to him theſe Three Months.

Earl of *N.* *Have you received any Letter from my Lord* Marleborough *within theſe three Months?*

Biſhop of R. I proteſt ſolemnly, I have not received any.

Earl of *N.* *Have you received any Written or Printed Papers from my Lord* Marleborough *within that ſpace of Time?*

Biſhop of R. As in the Preſence of God, I declare, I have not. My Lords, I have had ſome Acquaintance with my Lord *Marleborough*, both in King *James*'s Court, and in the Parliaments ſince; but I cannot call to mind, that ever I wrote to him, or he to me.

Earl of *N.* *Then, I think, my Lords, we have nothing more to do, but to wiſh my Lord Biſhop a good Journey to* Bromley.

With

With that they all roſe up, and ſaluted me, teſtifying their great Satisfaction, that I had ſo well cleared my ſelf, and confounded my Adverſary. More eſpecially Two Noble Lords of the Company, to whom, I ſaid I would now particularly Appeal, gave me an Ample Teſtimony of their belief of my Innocency in this Acculation, and of my Dutiful Diſpoſition to the Government.

My Lord *Nottingham* then told me, in the Name of all the reſt, *They had no farther Trouble to give me.* I intreated them to ſuffer me to add a few Words: They permitting me, I ſaid;

My Lords, I heartily thank you for Confronting me with this Fellow; elſe I could not ſo well have made out my Innocency: But I might ſtill have lain under a Suſpicion, whereof I had not known the leaſt Ground. Had this been a Tryal for my Life, I ſhould have been glad to have ſuch Honourable Perſons for my Judges. But now I have much more Reaſon to bleſs GOD, that you have been my Compurgators: That you are Witneſſes, as well as Judges, of the Detection of this Villany againſt me; whereof,

I muſt acknowledge, as yet, I do not fathom the bottom. Wherefore I muſt intreat, That I may put my ſelf under your Protection for the future. For although this Fountain of Wickedneſs has been now ſtopt in this Particular, as to my ſelf; yet it ſeems to run under Ground ſtill: And unleſs ſpecial Care be taken, it may break forth again in ſome other Place, on ſome other Occaſion, to the Ruine, if not of Me, yet of ſome other Innocent Perſon.

Earl of *Devonſhire*. *No, My Lord, You need never fear this Fountain can break forth any more, to do you, or any other good Man, any Prejudice; He having been ſo palpably Convicted of Knavery and Lying.*

Biſhop of R. My Lords, I hope ſo: As for my Self, I take my own Innocency to be abundantly Vindicated, by this your general Declaration in my Favour. I make no queſtion but your Lordſhips will next Vindicate your Selves, and the Juſtice of the Government, by bringing this Wicked Man to Condign Puniſhment, and by examining the main Drift of his Deſign, and who have been his Accomplices.

They

They all assuring me, I might relie upon them for it, I withdrew.

All this while I had not the least Conjecture, or Imagination, who this *Young* should be, with whom *Blackhead* pretended I held so close a Correspondence.

But my next Appearance before the Committee of the Council, will clear up what remains of the whole Wicked Mystery.

In the mean time, returning Home that Evening to *Bromley*, I presently met with a plentiful Concurrence of Evidence from most of my Servants, of their Discourse with *Blackhead*, and their Knowledge of his Business, in reference to Dr. *Hookes* Letter.

First, The Butler *Thomas Warren* told me, That according to my Order to use him kindly, he had done so both times he was with us: Particularly the second time he had entertain'd him with one of the Petty Canons of *Windsor*, who came thither by chance, in the Parlour next the Garden: That thence he brought him down into the Cellar, where *Blackhead* Drunk my Health with Knees almost bended to the Ground: That then he earnestly desir'd him to shew him my Study;

saying,

ſaying, I have heard your Lord has a very good Study of Books: My Maſter *Hookes* has a very good one: He often lets me go into it, and I doubt not but you have the ſame Liberty: I pray let me ſee his Books. The Butler anſwer'd, My Lord has but few Books here, only ſuch as he brings from time to time from *Weſtminſter* for preſent uſe, and they are lock'd up in Preſſes, ſo that I cannot ſhew them if I would. I pray then, ſaid *Blackhead*, let me ſee the Room, I hear it is a very fine one. The Butler ſaid, He could not preſume to do it without my leave. Then, ſaid *Blackhead*, let me ſee the reſt of the Houſe. The Butler excus'd his not being able to do it then, becauſe there were ſome Ladies with his Miſtreſs. The ſame Requeſt, he aſſur'd me, *Blackhead* repeated almoſt twenty times: But ſtill he deny'd him.

Then *Thomas Philips* my Coachman, and *John Jewel* my Gardiner, confirm'd moſt of what the Butler had ſaid: All of them agreeing, that both the times he was at *Bromley*, eſpecially the ſecond, he had talked publickly with them of the Buſineſs he came about from his Maſter Dr. *Hookes*: Enlarging much

in

in Commendation of the said Doctor, what a Worthy Man he was; What Hospitality he kept; And how he would never rest, till he had brought to Punishment the Knave that had forged my Hand and Seal for Orders. They added, That, after I had dismiss'd him, he linger'd about, in the Garden, the Hall, and the great Parlour, a long time; and was full of such Discourses.

Moreover, the Gardiner, and *William Hardy* the Groom, and *Thomas French*, and one or two of the other Servants, who remain'd at *Bromley* whilst I was in Custody at *Westminster*, did all assure me, that this Man, who brought first the Letter, and then the Message from Dr. *Hookes*, had been a third time at my House, whilst I was under Confinement. That it was upon a *Sunday*, which by Computation prov'd to be *Whit-Sunday*, *May* 15th. That they found him in the midst of the House, before they knew he was enter'd. He told them that, passing that way, he came to Condole for my Misfhap, and to enquire what the Matter was; hoping it was not so bad as was reported at *London*. They answer'd, They knew nothing of Particulars;

ticulars; yet doubted not but I was innocent. That he then again desir'd to see the House. But all the Doors were lock'd, except the great Parlour, which has no Lock upon it. That he would have enticed them to Town to Drink with him; which they refused, but made him Drink there; and he coming after Dinner, they perswaded a Maid-Servant to provide him some Meat: Which she did, but unwillingly, telling them she did not like the Fellows Looks; That perhaps he might come to Rob, or to Set the House, now so few Servants were at Home: That he rather looked (as indeed he did) like some Knavish broken Tradesman, than an Honest Rich Clergy-Man's Bayliff, or Steward, (as he also call'd himself;) and it has proved since, that her Conjecture was true.

All this, and more, my Servants repeated to me, touching *Blackhead*'s Behaviour in my House, and his Discourse concerning his Master Dr. *Hookes*. And they offer'd to depose it all upon Oath. And, above all, the next Day, being *Saturday*, *June* the 11th, Mr. *Moore* coming from *London*, immediately

ly found the Original Letter, that *Blackhead* had brought me from the pretended Doctor.

Wherefore, being furnished with all these fresh Materials, especially with the Letter it self; and being not a little surprized to hear that the Rogue had, the second time of his coming, been so earnest to get into my Study, or any of the other Rooms; and that he had the Diabolical Malice against me, to come to my House a third time, on pretence of Condoling my Misfortune, which I then thought, it was probable, had chiefly proceeded from his Malicious Perjury against me: All this consider'd, I resolved to go to *London* on *Munday* Morning with these Servants, and to carry the Letter that he brought me as from Dr. *Hookes*, to lay the whole Business before the Lords of the Committee, and to desire their farther Examination of *Blackhead* upon these Particulars.

Accordingly on *Munday*, *June* the 13th, I went, and attended the meeting of the Lords that Morning in the usual place. When there was a full Committee, I sent to

them by a Clerk of the Council, intreating that I might have a ſhort Audience. After ſome time, I was introduced. There were preſent (beſides moſt of the Lords before-mentioned,) three others whom I had not ſeen there ſince my firſt Appearance before them, the Marquiſs of *Carmarthen* Lord Preſident, the Lord *Godolphin*, and Sir *John Lowther*.

When I came into the Room, and was juſt going to propoſe the Buſineſs that brought me thither; My Lord *Nottingham* prevented me, and ſaid;

My Lord, Do you know that Perſon there? Pointing to a Man, who ſtood behind the Privy Counſellors, near the Door which leads into the publick Room.

Biſhop of R. My Lord, I do not know him.

Earl of *N. My Lord, I pray obſerve him well.*

Biſhop of R. Upon my Credit I never ſaw this Man before in my Life, to the utmoſt of my Knowledge.

Then the Perſon ſtanding there look'd boldly upon me, and ſaid, *Do you not know me,*

my

my Lord? Do not you remember, that I officiated some Weeks at Bromley-College, *for Mr.* Dobſon, *in King* James's *Time? And that I Preached in the Pariſh Church there once or twice?*

Biſhop of R. My Lords, I ſolemnly affirm, I do not know this Man: I never ſaw him before: I never knew that he Officiated in *Bromley-College*: I never heard him Preach in the Church there: He is a meer Stranger to me: He may have ſerv'd for the Chaplain of that College in King *James*'s Time: But I was not then concern'd who Officiated there. He may have Preach'd in the Church, and I not have heard him: For about that time I was Clerk of the Cloſet, and was ſeldom or never at *Bromley* on Sundays, by reaſon of my Attendance on the Princeſs *Anne* of *Denmark*, either at *Whitehall*, or *Windſor*, or *Hampton-Court*, or *Richmond*.

The ſame Perſon preſently took me up, with inſolent Confidence, *You will know me better when Captain* Lawe *appears: I warrant you don't know Captain* Lawe *neither.*

Biſhop

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The ſame Perſon preſently took me up, with inſolent Confidence, *You will know me better when Captain* Lawe *appears: I warrant you don't know Captain* Lawe *neither.*

Biſhop

Biſhop of R. My Lords, if any of your Lordſhips pleaſe to ask me any Thing, I ſhall anſwer with all Reſpect. But I do not underſtand that I am bound to ſatisfie this ſawcy Fellows Queſtions: Yet, becauſe he has ask'd me ſo familiarly, touching my Acquaintance with one Captain *Lawe*, I aſſure you, I know not any ſuch Man in the World as Captain *Lawe*.

But, my Lords, by this Perſon's Diſcourſe I am induced to believe, he may be the *Young*, with whom the other Knave *Blackhead* pretended the laſt time that I held a ſtrict Correſpondence by his Means.

Earl of *N. This Man's Name is* Young, Robert Young.

Biſhop of R. Then, my Lords, becauſe my Lord Preſident, and ſome of the other Lords, were not here then, I muſt beg leave of thoſe that were, that I may repeat what I then remembred concerning one *Robert Young*. Whereupon I recollected the Subſtance of what I had ſaid, of a Letter I had received ſome Years ſince, dated at *Newgate*, from one of the ſame Name, who pretended himſelf to be a Clergy-man.

I added, It ſeems, my Lords, by his own Confeſſion, this is the very ſame *Young*. But as I never ſaw him before he was in *Newgate*, ſo I declare, upon the Faith of a Chriſtian, I never ſaw, or heard from him ſince that Letter: However I am very glad you have him now: I make no doubt but he will be found in the end ſuch another Villain as *Blackhead* was proved to be on *Friday* laſt.

But, my Lords, ſaid I, the Buſineſs that brought me to wait on you now, is to intreat you to take that ſame *Blackhead* into farther Examination, and to inquire a little more into his Part in this *Wicked Contrivance*, whatever it is.

My Lords, ſince I went to *Bromley*, my Servant Mr. *Moore* has had the good Fortune to retrieve the very Original Letter that *Blackhead* brought me from his Counterfeit Maſter Doctor *Hookes*. Then I deliver'd the Letter at the Table, and my Lord *Nottingham* read it aloud. And to ſhew with what a Treacherous Inſinuation, and plauſibility of Style it was written, to draw from me an

Anſwer

Anſwer under my own Hand, I here ſet down the very Letter it ſelf Word for Word.

My Lord,

BEing deſtitute of a Curate, one Mr. James Curtis *came to me, who produced Letters dimiſſory (bearing Date,* March 13th, 91.) *and likewiſe Letters of Orders under your Hand and Epiſcopal Seal. Now, my Lord, willing I am to employ any that your Lordſhip ſhall recommend, and give him all the Incouragement imaginable; but being ſince, by his own Words, ſuſpitious that his Inſtruments are forg'd, I have therefore on purpoſe ſent my Man to know the Truth thereof, and in order thereunto, I humbly beg your Lordſhip to give an Account in yours by this Bearer, promiſing, for the Church of* Englands *Credit, and likewiſe your Lordſhip's Honor, that, if he be an Impoſtor, I will ſee him brought to condign Puniſhment for ſuch his Forgery; but if he be not, I beg your Lordſhips Pardon for this Trouble, occaſioned by my candid*

Affection

Affection for your Lordſhip and all Clergy-men, being not willing to have them impos'd upon.

I am Your Lordſhip's

Moſt Obedient Servant,

Windgrave, Apr. 6. -92. *Robert Hookes*, D.D.

Now, my Lords, proceeded I, I thought it would be for your Service to acquaint you, That I have received, from divers of my Servants, a farther Account of all *Blackhead*'s Demeanor, the firſt, ſecond, and third Time he was at my Houſe at *Bromley*; for he was there a third Time alſo, which I knew not of, before I went home on *Friday*.

Then I ſumm'd up what it has been ſaid before, my Servants were ready to depoſe to that purpoſe: Concluding thus, My Lords, my Servants are attending without; I pray that *Blackhead* may be brought before them Face to Face, and that they may be admitted

to give in upon Oath, what they have to say concerning him.

Upon this, several of the Lords said, Send for *Blackhead*; and he was sent for.

But before he came, they call'd in Mrs *Young*, the Wife, it seems, of the aforesaid *Robert Young*; but what a kind of Wife, and which of the two Wives he had at one and the same time, will appear in what follows.

When she was come in, my Lord *Nottingham* said to her, *Mary Young, Whence received you this Paper?* Taking up a Paper that lay upon the Table.

Mary Young. *I had it from Captain* Lawe.

Earl of *N.* *What did he say, when he gave it you?*

Mrs. Young. *He bid me deliver it to my Husband.*

Earl of *N.* *What did he say it was?*

Mrs. Young. *He said it was a* Sociate, *or some such Word.*

Earl of *N.* *What! Did he deliver you a Paper of this Treasonable Nature, in the manner as it is, to be given to your Husband, without*

Sealing

Sealing it up, or inclosing it in another Paper.

Mrs. Young. *Yes, my Lord, he did.*

Earl of *N.* *Did he tell you any of the Names to it.*

Mrs. Young. *Yes; He said, there were the late Archbishop of* Canterbury's, *the Bishop of* Rochester's, *and some other Lords Names to it.*

Earl of *N.* *What pass'd afterwards between you about it?*

Mrs. Young. *I gave it my Husband, and when Captain* Lawe *came for it again, my Husband said, No, These Lords, whose Names are subscribed, have not been so liberal in their Relief of my Wants as formerly; and therefore I will make another Use of this Paper: And so lock'd it up.*

By this time *Blackhead* was brought in, and the Woman ordered to withdraw, and to be kept by her self.

Earl of *N.* Blackhead, *The last Time you confessed you brought the Bishop of* Rochester *a Letter from* Robert Young, *under the false Name of Doctor* Hookes.

Blackhead. *Yes, I did.*

Earl of *N.* *Can you know that Letter when you see it?*

Blackhead. *I cannot tell, I doubt I cannot know it.*

Earl of *N.* *Here it is*; (and it was given into his Hand;) *Is that the same Letter you delivered the Bishop?*

Blackhead. *I am not sure it is.*

Earl of *N.* *Consider it well; look on the Superscription, you cannot but remember that. You began to be somewhat Ingenuous last* Friday; *if you relapse it will fare the worse with you.*

Blackhead. *Yes, this may be the Letter; This is the very same Letter.*

Earl of *N.* *And you received an Answer to this from the Bishop for Doctor* Hookes, *which you carried to* Robert Young?

Blackhead. *Yes, I did, I own it.*

Earl of *N.* *But, What made you, when you were at* Bromley *the second Time, so earnestly to desire of the Bishop's Butler, and his other Servants, that you might see the Rooms in the House, especially his Study?*

Blackhead. *No, I do not remember that I desired to see the Study: The House I might, out of Curiosity.*

Earl

Earl of *N.* *But here are ſome of the Biſhop's Servants without, who are ready to ſwear, that you preſs'd very often to get a ſight of his Study; ſaying, you had the Freedom at your Maſter* Hookes, *to ſhew any Stranger his Books, and you doubted not but the Butler could do the ſame there.*

Blackhead. *I cannot deny that I did deſire to ſee the Biſhop's Study: The other Rooms I am ſure I did.*

Earl of *N.* *What Reaſon had you to be ſo importunate to ſee that, or any of the other Rooms? Had you any Paper about you, that you deſign'd to drop, or leave in any part of the Biſhop's Houſe?*

Here *Blackhead* ſtop'd, as very loath to out with it; till divers of the Lords urg'd him to tell the Truth. At laſt he went on, though with much Heſitancy.

Blackhead. *Yes, I muſt confeſs I had a Paper in my Pocket, which I deſign'd to put ſomewhere in the Houſe.*

Earl of *N.* *What did you with it?*

Blackhead. *I did leave it in the Parlour next the Kitchin.*

Earl of *N.* *In what part of the Parlour?*

Black-

Blackhead. *In the Flower-Pot in the Chimney.*

Good Lord bleſs me, cryed I. I ſeriouſly proteſt, I never heard that any Paper was found there by my Servants. To be ſure they would have brought it me.

Earl of *N. But, my Lord, it will be worth your while to ſend preſently to* Bromley, *to ſee whether there be any Paper ſtill, and what it is.*

Biſhop of R. My Lord, I will ſend one away immediately. Only my Servants are without, expecting to be ſworn. Be pleaſed firſt to call them in, and diſpatch them.

Earl of *N. Nay, My Lord, There is no need of their Teſtimony now. For this Fellow has ſaid already more than they know. He has confeſs'd, not only that he deſir'd to ſee your Houſe, and particularly your Study, but that he did it with Intention to leave a Paper ſomewhere in it; and that he did leave one in your Parlour, and in the Flower-Pot of the Chimny.*

Biſhop of R. Then, my Lord, I will ſend away forthwith.

Earl of *N. Stay, my Lord, let us firſt Examine him a little farther.* Blackhead, *What*

Paper

Paper was it you left in the Biſhop's Chimny in the Flower-Pot?

Blackhead. *It was the Aſſociation.*

Earl of *N. Was it this Paper here?* Shewing the Aſſociation that lay upon the Table.

Blackhead. *Yes, it was.*

Earl of *N. How came you by it? And who adviſed you to lodge it there?*

Blackhead. *I had it from Mr.* Young, *and he adviſed me to leave it in the Biſhop's Houſe, as I did.*

Earl of *N. Did* Young *direct you to put it into the Flower-Pot in the Parlour?*

Blackhead. *Yes, he did, and I put it there accordingly in the Flower-Pot.*

Earl of *N. But were not you a third time at the Biſhop's Houſe? It was upon a* Sunday, *which it ſeems was* Whit-Sunday.

Blackhead. *I was.*

Earl of *N. You pretended to Condole for the Biſhop's Impriſonment: It is manifeſt that could not be your Buſineſs. What was it?*

Blackhead. *I was deſired by Mr.* Young, *ſeeing the Aſſociation was not found by thoſe, who Apprehended the Biſhop, to go to* Bromley, *and try to recover it, that being the Original. I*

did

did ſo, I came into the Houſe before any of the Servants were aware, I went into the Parlour unſeen, and took the Paper out of the ſame place where I had put it, and deliver'd it again to Mr. Young.

Biſhop of R. My Lords, I am very much ſurprized at all this. I cannot but admire the Wonderful Goodneſs of GOD, in this my extraordinary Deliverance. It appears by what this Fellow confeſſes, that this Forged Aſſociation was in my Houſe, in a Flower-Pot, for many Days together: And that it was there at the very time I was ſeized on by your Lordſhips Order. For he ſays he put it there the ſecond time he was at *Bromley*, which was a pretty while before I was in Hold: And took it not out till the third time, which was upon *Whit-Sunday*, the Ninth Day after I was under Confinement. And by a ſtrange and marvellous Providence, that Parlour, where he ſays it lay ſo long in the Chimney, was never ſearch'd or inquir'd after by the Clerk of the Council, or the Meſſenger.

The other part of the Houſe on the Left-Hand of the Hall, where my Study is, and Bed-Chamber above Stairs, and a Parlour

and

and Drawing-Room below; all these they searched very accurately. Particularly, I well remember the Messenger thrust his Hand into the Flower-Pots in every Chimney: Which seem'd very odd to me then: But I now understand the meaning of it.

At this, my Lord *Sydney*, my Lord *Nottingham*, my Lord *Devonshire*, and some others of the Council, affirm'd, That they perfectly remember'd, both *Blackhead*, and *Young*, did especially direct them to give Order to those who should be sent to take me, to search all the Flower-Pots.

By this time it was thought seasonable by the Lords to confront *Blackhead* with *Young*.

But in the mean while, the Counterfeit Association, being handed about the Table, was at length deliver'd to me. It was to this purpose, as much of it as, by a transient View, I could carry away in my Memory.

THat We whose Names were subscribed, should solemnly promise in the Presence of GOD, to Contribute our utmost Assistance towards King JAMES's *Recovery of His Kingdoms. That to this end, We would have ready to meet Him at His Landing, Thirty Thousand Men well Arm'd. That we would seize upon the Person of the Princess of* Orange, *Dead or Alive; And take Care that some strong Garison should be forthwith deliver'd into His Hands: And furnish Him with a Considerable Sum of Money for the support of His Army*; or to this sense.

March 20. —9.

And the Forged Subscriptions were, as I remember, after this manner:

W. Cant.

Marleborough. *Salisbury.* *Tho. Roffen.*

Cornbury.

Basil Firebrace. *John Wilcoxe.*

Now

Now upon the first sight of this Paper, I presently said, I protest, my Lords, I am very much amazed to see my Hand so well Counterfeited. All the difference is, they have done me the favour to write it finer than I can. Otherwise I acknowledge it is so like, that I verily believe, I my self, had I seen it in another place, should have been apt to doubt whether it were of my Writing or no. I am confident it might, upon the first Blush, deceive the best Friends I have.

But, my Lords, here is another innocent Person's Name, whose Hand I know very well. And I dare venture to say, it is even better forg'd than mine. I mean Archbishop *Sancroft's*.

Lord *Godolphin*. *My Lords, I am very well acquainted with Archbishop* Sancroft's *Hand. And really it is here most exactly counterfeited.*

Moreover, my Lord *Godolphin*, my Lord *Sydney*, and others said, That the Earl of *Marlborough's* Hand had been so well feigned in a Letter pretended to be written to *Young* himself, that it was very difficult for his most intimate Friends to observe any Distinction.

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And in that Letter the Bishop of *Rochester* was said to have the Paper in his keeping, which appears now to have been meant of the False Association being in my Custody.

Nay, my Lord *Sydney* assur'd me, these very Impostors had brought him a Letter, supposed also to be Written by me to *Young*, which being but of ordinary Matters, he thought not worth the keeping, but he well remembred the Subscription of my Name was very like this in the Association, as well indeed it might.

By this time *Young* being come into the Room, my Lord *Nottingham* spoke to him,

Young, *Look upon that Letter*, (shewing him his own to me, under the Name of Doctor *Hookes*,) *Do you know that Hand?*

Young. *No, I don't know it.*

Earl of *N. Did not you send that Letter to the Bishop of* Rochester *by* Blackhead?

Young. *No, I know no* Hookes, *I never writ to the Bishop of* Rochester, *but in my own Name, with my own Hand.*

Earl of *N. What say you,* Blackhead?

Black-

Blackhead. *I did receive that very Letter from Mr.* Young's *own Hand, and deliver'd it to the Biſhop of* Rocheſter *with mine.*

Earl of *N.* (Taking up the Aſſociation, and ſhewing it to *Young.*) *Did not you give this Paper to* Blackhead, *and order him to put it into a Chimney in the Biſhop of* Rocheſter's *Houſe, and into a Flower-Pot, if there were any?*

Young. *No, I never deſir'd him to carry it thither, or to put it into a Flower-Pot.*

Earl of *N. What ſay you,* Blackhead?

Blackhead. *Mr.* Young *did give me that Paper, and directed me to leave it in the Biſhop's Houſe; and, if I could, to put it in a Flower-Pot in ſome Room; which I did, in the Parlour.*

Young. *There is no ſuch matter, I abſolutely deny it.*

Upon this, the Earl of *Nottingham*, the Lord *Sydney*, and ſome others of the Counſellors, aſk'd *Young, Why then did you give us ſuch expreſs Directions, to ſend, and ſearch the Flower-Pots, among other Places, in the Biſhop's Houſe?*

Young.

Young. *I ſaid nothing of Flower-Pots. I bid you take care that the Biſhop's Perſon ſhould be exactly ſearch'd; becauſe, when he went abroad, he carried the Aſſociation about him; when he was at home, he put it in ſome private place, for fear of ſurprize: Perhaps I might ſay in the Chimney.*

The Lords replyed, *Nay, we all well remember, you particularly mentioned the Flower-Pots.*

Earl of *N.* Young, *When you perceived that the Perſons ſent to ſeize on the Biſhop had miſſed the Aſſociation, did not you then deſire* Blackhead *to go a third time to the Biſhop's Houſe, and to take it out of the Pot, where he had laid it?*

Young. *No, I know nothing of it.*

Earl of *N. What ſay you,* Blackhead?

Blackhead. *At Mr.* Young's *requeſt, I went to the Biſhop's Houſe a third time; it was upon a* Sunday; *I privately got into the Parlour, and took the Aſſociation out of the ſame Flower-Pot where I had laid it, and return'd it back to Mr.* Young.

Young. *This is a Combination between the Biſhop of* Rocheſter *and* Blackhead, *to baffle the whole Diſcovery of the Plot.*

Which

Which Saying of *Young*'s could not but raiſe a general Smile among all the Company, they lifting up their Hands with great Indignation at his unparalell'd Impudence.

Biſhop of R. I thought, my Lords, the laſt Time I was here, *Blackhead* was the moſt brazen Faced Fellow that ever I ſaw; but now I find this ſame *Young* to be a much viler Miſcreant than he. This is ſo baſe a Suggeſtion againſt me, and ſo impoſſible for me to be guilty of, and I know your Lordſhips ſo little ſuſpect it of me, that I need not make any Anſwer to it in my Defence.

Lord Preſident. Young, *Thou art the ſtrangeſt Creature that ever I heard of; Doſt thou think we could imagine, that the Biſhop of* Rochester *would combine with this thy Confederate, to have an* Aſſociation *written, with his own Hand to it, and then laid in his own Houſe, in a Flower-Pot there? Which, if it had been found, muſt have endangered his Life: And we ſee it was the moſt remarkable good Fortune to him that almoſt ever hapned to any Man, that it was not found there.*

But *Young* ſtill perſiſting, that he believed I had taken *Blackhead* off, they were both order'd

order'd to withdraw. And, I assure my Reader, that during this whole Examination, tho' *Young*'s Forgery was so evidently Convicted by the Confession of his own Companion, and Instrument, yet he behaved himself with a daring unconcern'd Confidence, with a bold and erect Countenance, though it had naturally very much of a Villain in it. His whole Carriage indeed was such, as became the Discipline he has undergone for these divers Years; having so long been almost a constant Inhabitant, together with his Wife, of many of the common Gaols in *England* and *Ireland*; as you shall find before I leave them.

But to make haste to the Conclusion of this Narration; the Lord President call'd for the Letter which *Young* had sent to me under the Name of *Hookes*. When his Lordship had viewed it deliberately, he ask'd also for the *Association*, and having compared them for some considerable time, he broke forth in these Words; *Really, my Lords, it is a very great Providence, that this Letter, sent by* Young, *under the Name of* Hookes, *to the Bishop of* Rochester, *was preserved by his Servant:*

Cant. For this very Letter, and the Association, were both apparently Written by the same Hand; you may perceive there is no manner of Difference in the Writing, but only that the Letter is written in a less Hand, as Letters are wont to be, and the Association in a greater, as a Publick Instrument.

At this the whole Board, one after another, had a perfect sight of both, and all applauded the Happiness of the Discovery: For it was as clear as Light to all that were present, that the Letters, and Words, of both, were of the very same Form and Figure.

Particularly, my Lord *Godolphin* farther observed, and made it plain to them all, That the *W* in *W. Cant.* in the Subscription, was the very same Letter with the *W* in *Whereas*, which was the first Word of the Counterfeit *Association*.

For my Part, I could not forbear Exclaiming, *Great is Truth, and it will prevail!*

After all this, I asking the Lords, Whether they had any farther Service to command me? And they saying *No*, I spoke these few Words.

My Lords, I must always acknowledge,

That, next the Signal Providence of God, in so visibly protecting an innocent Man, your Lordships fair and honorable Way of Proceeding with me, in not shutting me up close in the *Tower* immediately upon my first Accusation; but in openly Confronting me with these Varlets, whilst the Matter was fresh in my Memory, and in so strictly and impartially examining them now, has been the Principal Occasion, that my Innocency has met with a Vindication as publick and unquestionable, as I my self could have wished and prayed for. But still, my good Lords, I do again most humbly recommend to your Lordships, The Prosecution of this *Black Contrivance* to the Bottom, for the Sake of Truth and Justice, and for the Safety of every other honest Man, whose Lot this might have been as well as mine. I am sure your Lordships all believe, that there can be no greater Service to the Government, especially at this time, than to have such perjured Informers, so plainly discovered, to be severely punished according to their Demerits.

And so I took my Leave of their Lordships.

This is the Substance of what I can remember, as far as my Part goes in this Surprizing Adventure. As to the Account I promised of my Wicked Accusers, my Reader shall have it as fast as my weak Eyes will give me Leave to write it.

Aug. 1. 1692. *Tho. Roffen.*
Bromley.

The End of the First Part.